(c) The retail selling price of petro products differs on account of variation in rate of State Sales Tax/VAT in different States, State-specific irrecoverable taxes, freight charges depending upon distance of depot from refinery and delivery charges from the depot to the retail petrol pump etc. As far as various State Taxes are concerned, it is for the States to take steps to bring about uniformity in tax rates. The Central Government has been playing the role of a facilitator in the tax reform process at the State level.

RBI package for Andhra Pradesh

595. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount rescheduled by Commercial banks, scheduled banks, regional rural banks, co-operative banks under RBI package dated 24th June, 2004;

(b) the details of interest amount clubbed with principal as on 31st March, 2004 and whether the same accrued as on 30th June, 2006 is covered under the package announced for 16 districts of Andhra pradesh;

(c) whether any additional funds are provided for different components included in the package, or already allotted in the 2006 and 2007 Budgets will be utilised; and

(d) whether recommendations made by National Farmers Commission in their five reports were accepted; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) During the year 2004-05, the total amount rescheduled by various agencies in Andhra Pradesh is as under:

(i) Commercial Banks	:	Rs. 1363.38 crore
(ii) Regional Rural Banks	:	Rs. 571.70 crore
(iii) Cooperative Banks	:	Rs. 1286.19 crore

(b) The package announced by RBI for 16 districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh includes the following:

(i) The entire interest on overdue loans as on 01-07-2006 will be waived off in the 16 affected districts and all farmers will have no past

interest burdens on that date, so that they will immediately be eligible for fresh loan from the banking system.

(ii) The overdue loans fo the farmers as on 01-07-2006 will be rescheduled over a period of 3-5 years with a one-year moratorium.

(iii) A credit flow of Rs. 13817.78 crores will be ensured in these affected districts of Andhra Pradesh in 2006-07.

(c) The funds regarding credit flow and reschedulement of loans will be provided by the Banks whereas the burden of interest waiver wil be shared by Central Government and State Governments on 50:50 basis and necessary budgetary provisions will be provided accordingly.

(d) The information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Interest rate on Provident Fund deposits

596. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present interest rate on the Provident Fund deposits;

(b) whether there is any demand to enhance the PF interest rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government consider enhancing the interest rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not if the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The present rate of interest on Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme is 8 per cent per annum.

(b) to (e) Proposals in regard to various small savings schemes including changes in the rate of interest on deposits, are received from time to time. The interest rate on small savings schemes including PPF are reviewed periodically. The last revision of the interest rates was made with effect from 1.3.2003 on the basis of recommendations of the Expert Committee (2001) chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Dy. Governer, Reserve Bank of India. There is no proposal currently under consideration of the Government, to enhance the interest rate on Provident Fund deposits.